

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

a.) Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

determining by a first network management device, separate and distinct from a first router of a network, whether the first router is meeting a service level for a first group of network traffic of the network serviced by the first router; and

regulating a second group of network traffic of the network, also being serviced by said first router, by blocking the second group to assist the first router in meeting the service level for the first group of network traffic, the second group of network traffic being separate and distinct from said first group of network traffic;

wherein said first group of network traffic comprises network traffic destined for/sourced from first one or more network nodes of said network, and said second group of network traffic comprises network traffic destined for/sourced from second one or more network nodes of said network that are separate and distinct from said first one or more network nodes.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said service level is a selected one of a service level goal and a service level commitment of said first router for said first group of network traffic of the network serviced by said first router.

3. (cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first group of network traffic comprises network traffic destined for/sourced from a first client of a first network node of said network, and said second group of network traffic comprises network traffic destined for/sourced from a second client of the same first network node of said network.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises monitoring one or more network traffic metrics associated with said first group of network traffic that are at least partially indicative of whether the first router is meeting said service level for said first group of network traffic.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said service level comprises a selected one of a reliability service level and a performance service level.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said monitoring is performed at said first networking device.
9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said monitoring is performed away from said first networking device.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises determining by a second network management device, away from said first router, whether said second group of network traffic substantially contributes to said first router's non-meeting of said service level for said first group of network traffic, and said regulating of said second group of network traffic is conditionally performed, upon determining said second group of network traffic substantially contributes to said first router is not meeting of said service level for said first group of network traffic.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said first and second network management devices are separate and distinct network management devices.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said first and second network management devices are the same network management device.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises determining by a second network management device, away from said first router, where said regulating is to be performed.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said regulating comprises regulating said first router with respect to services provided by said first router to said second group of network traffic.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said regulating comprises regulating a second router of said network with respect to services provided by said second router to said second group of network traffic.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises determining by a second network management device, whether said second group of network traffic are being regulated, and if said second group of network traffic are being regulated, whether the regulation is to be moderated.

Claims 17-38 (Cancelled)

39. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

determining by a network management device, separate and distinct from a router of a network, whether the router is meeting a service level for a first group of network traffic of the network serviced by the router;

regulating a second group of network traffic of the network, also being serviced by said router, by blocking the second group to assist the router in meeting the service level for the first group of network traffic, the second group of network traffic being separate and distinct from said first group of network traffic;

determining by a second network management device, away from said router, whether said second group of network traffic substantially contributes to said router's non-meeting of said service level for said first group of network traffic, and said

regulating of said second group of network traffic is conditionally performed, upon determining said second group of network traffic substantially contributes to said first networking device is not meeting of said service level for said first group of network traffic; and

determining by the second network management device, whether said second group of network traffic are being regulated, and if said second group of network traffic are being regulated, whether the regulation is to be moderated to unblock the second group.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

monitoring packet drop rate associated with said first group of network traffic; and

determining whether the first router is meeting said service level for said first group of network traffic based on the packet drop rate.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

monitoring a volume of data transmitted by the first router; and

determining whether the first router is meeting said service level for said first group of network traffic based on the volume.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

monitoring an average turn-around time of packets transmitted by the first router; and

determining whether the first router is meeting said service level for said first group of network traffic based on the average turn-around time of the packets.

Claims 43-45 (Cancelled)

46. (new) A system comprising:

a managed networking device transmitting network traffic to and from other networking devices;

a sensor, located away from a managed networking device, that determines whether the managed networking device is meeting a service level for a first group of the network traffic serviced by the managed networking device by monitoring a packet drop rate associated with said first group of network traffic;

a director, located away from a managed networking device, that determines whether a second group of network traffic substantially contributes to said managed networking device failure to meet the said service level for said first group of network traffic, the second group of network traffic being also serviced by the managed networking device, but separate and distinct from said first group of network traffic, wherein said first group of network traffic comprises network traffic destined for/sourced from first one or more network nodes of said network, and said second group of network traffic comprises network traffic destined for/sourced from second one or more network nodes of said network that are separate and distinct from said first one or more network nodes, wherein the director regulates the second group of network traffic of the network by signaling the second networking device to block the second group of network traffic to assist the managed networking device in meeting the service level for the first group of network traffic, if said second group of network traffic is determined to substantially contribute to a failure to meet the service level for said first group of network traffic.